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MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of its resolutions 44/214 of 22 December 1989, 46/212 of 20 December 1991, 48/169 of 21 December 1993 and 50/97 of 20 December 1995,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness and isolation from world markets and prohibitive transit costs and risks, impose serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development efforts of the landlocked developing countries,

Also recognizing that 16 of the landlocked developing countries are also classified by the United Nations as least developed countries, and that their geographical situation is an added constraint on their overall ability to cope with the challenges of development,

Further recognizing that most transit countries are themselves developing countries facing serious economic problems, including the lack of adequate infrastructure in the transport sector,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Recalling that measures to deal with the transit problems of landlocked developing countries require closer and even more effective cooperation and collaboration between those countries and their transit neighbours,

Noting the relevant part of the Agenda for Development[1] on the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries,

Recognizing the important role played by bilateral cooperative arrangements and regional and subregional cooperation and integration in alleviating the transit problems of the landlocked developing countries and improving the transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries,

Also recognizing the importance of continuing the activities of the regional commissions to improve the transit transport infrastructure in the landlocked and transit developing countries,

Noting the importance of strengthening the existing international support measures with a view to addressing the problems of landlocked developing countries,

1. Reaffirms the right of access of landlocked developing countries to and from the sea and to freedom of transit through the territory of transit States by all means of transport, in accordance with international law;

2. Also reaffirms that transit developing countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked developing countries should in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

3. Calls upon both the landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours, in the spirit of South-South cooperation, including bilateral cooperation, to implement measures to strengthen further their cooperative and collaborative efforts in dealing with their transit issues;

4. Appeals once again to all States, international organizations and financial institutions to implement, as a matter of urgency and priority, the specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries agreed in the resolutions and declarations adopted by the General Assembly and the outcomes of recent major United Nations conferences relevant to landlocked developing countries, as well as in the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries;[2]

5. Notes the convening of the Third Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, which took place in New

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[1] See resolution 51/240, annex.

[2] See TD/B/42(1)/11-TD/B/LDC/AC.1/7.

York from 18 to 20 June 1997, and its agreed conclusions and recommendations and proposals for future actions;

6. Calls upon the landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours to intensify their cooperative and collaborative efforts in dealing with the transit problems, inter alia, by improving transit transport infrastructure facilities and bilateral and subregional agreements to govern transit transport operations, developing joint ventures in the area of transit transport and strengthening institutions and human resources dealing with transit transport;

7. Welcomes the convening of the first subregional consultative meeting of countries of North-East Asia on transit transport cooperation, which took place at Ulaanbaatar from 20 to 22 May 1997 under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme special unit for technical cooperation among developing countries and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and endorses the Ulaanbaatar memorandum of understanding adopted at that meeting;

8. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in collaboration with donor countries and institutions, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and relevant subregional institutions, to continue his efforts to organize specific consultative groups, when requested by the landlocked and transit developing countries concerned, to identify priority areas for action at the national and subregional levels and to draw up action programmes;

9. Emphasizes that assistance for the improvement transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries, and that donor assistance should consequently take into account the requirements for the long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries;

10. Invites donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications;

11. Invites the United Nations Development Programme to further promote, as appropriate, subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes, to expand its support in the transport and communications sectors to the landlocked and transit developing countries, and to enhance its technical cooperation for development so as to promote national and collective self-reliance among them;

12. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene in 1999 in New York, within the overall level of resources for the biennium 1998-1999, another meeting of governmental experts from landlocked and transit developing countries, representatives of donor countries, and representatives of

financial and development institutions, including relevant regional and subregional economic organizations and commissions, to review progress in the development of transit systems, including sectoral questions, as well as transit transportation costs, with a view to exploring the possibility of formulating necessary action-oriented measures;

13. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to seek voluntary contributions to ensure the participation of representatives of landlocked and transit developing countries and representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions at the meeting referred to in paragraph 12 of the present resolution;

14. Notes with appreciation the contribution of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to formulating international measures to deal with the special problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urges the Conference, inter alia, to keep under constant review the evolution of transit transport infrastructure facilities, institutions and services, monitor the implementation of agreed measures, including by making a case study, collaborate in all relevant initiatives, including those of the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and serve as a focal point on cross-regional issues of landlocked developing countries;

15. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to take appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the activities called for in the present resolution, and to strengthen, including through maintaining the appropriate level of the staff, the capacity of the Conference's Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries in order to effectively implement its mandate to further support the landlocked developing countries;

16. Welcomes the note by the Secretary-General and progress report of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries,[1] and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, together with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution and submit it to the Trade Development Board and to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

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[1] A/52/329.